

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**April 9, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Reg Rankin  
Darren Fisher

REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly, ex-officio  
Councillors: Sue Uteck, Vice Chair  
Debbie Hum  
Tim Outhit  
Bill Karsten

STAFF: Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator,  
Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer -  
Operations  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m. in the Trophy Room, City Hall, without a quorum.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Staff Report - Tipping Fees**

- A draft staff report dated March 26, 2010 was before the Committee.
- Spreadsheets entitled: Tipping Fee History on Commercial Refuse & Commercial Organics and Tipping Fee Review - Refuse & Organic, was distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an update to the Committee, noting that HRM has not increased tipping fees since 2001. Staff reviewed different CPI increases since 2001 and there were a significant number of CPI increases that could have been applied during the nine year period. From 1990 to 1999 Halifax had a process where tipping fees were increased approximately every year and occasionally, twice a year. Increases ceased in 2001 as the Otter Lake Waste Processing and Disposal facility. Costs for disposing refuse has risen; however, the amount of diversion continues to grow. This reduces the amount being disposed of into the landfill and increases HRM's operational costs. The benefits of diversion have shown a profit. Staff suggest a static increase of \$10 for commercial and \$5 for compost to generate a revenue stream.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Anstey, Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, advised that approximately 25-30% of the system cost is covered under tipping fees. Staff estimate that a new refuse cell will cost approximately \$16 million.

Staff are recommending Option #3 of the Tipping Fee Review - Refuse & Organic spreadsheet to Regional Council, based on the ability to generate revenues.

Mr. Helm noted that across the other eight regions of Nova Scotia increases to tipping fees have commenced due to the increased pressure to divert waste materials away

from the landfills. He commented that HRM is in the middle of the scale in regard to what regions are charging for tipping fees.

Councillor Rankin raised concern as to how HRM's commercial collectors and commercial business owners would view the increase. He commented that \$110 exceeds the cost of recovery.

During the ensuing discussion, staff noted additional points:

- approximately \$100,000 is being lost in potential revenue per month
- it is difficult for HRM to collect a large amount on low volumes of compost
- staff will provide 45 to 60 days notice to the commercial owners, giving them enough time to adjust their pricing
- the increase in fees will take effect June 1, 2010
- additional information will be advertised on HRM's website, newspaper, as well citizens can contact HRM's call center

Councillor Lund requested copies of the spreadsheets:

- Tipping Fee History on Commercial Refuse & Commercial Organics; and
- Tipping Fee Review - Refuse & Organic

be distributed to Council in conjunction with the March 26, 2010 staff report.

Councillor Rankin suggested staff contact Councillors over the weekend to review the report and answer any questions. This will better prepare the Councillors, should any of their constituents contact them before Council's April 13<sup>th</sup> session. He noted the importance of promoting Option #3 and indicated that staff could have recommended a greater increase given the number of years without an increase.

Councillor Lund requested staff prepare a report identifying the time line and provide any recommendations for tipping fee increases over the next five years.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 26, 2010**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**  
**April 9, 2010**

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None.